

Message Text

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C:HSOHNENFELDT

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003612

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OVIP, GE, US, BEXP, PFOR

SUBJECT: GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL'S VISIT

REF: (A) BERLIN 5000; (B) BERLIN 6150

FOR COOPER FROM HARTMAN

1. BERLIN'S 5000 PROVIDES A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE BIDDING ON THE PROPOSED BEIL VISIT AND TO ASSESS THE POSSIBLE RESULTS OF SUCH A VISIT. IT IS PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE THAT WE DO THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR CALLS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ELSEWHERE IN THE GDR HIERARCHY.

2. THE DEPARTMENT HAS STUDIED THIS MATTER CAREFULLY AND HAS
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CONCLUDED THAT WHILE THERE IS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO

THE VISIT, IT SHOULD BE TIMED SO AS TO HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THE VISIT SHOULD ALSO TAKE PLACE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN US-GDR RELATIONS SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE MISINTERPRETED IN THE US OR BY OUR ALLIES, OR BY THE GDR AND ITS ALLIES.

3. ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GDR FORMALLY (AND YOU SHOULD AMPLIFY OUR POSITION IN YOUR SUBSEQUENT

CALLS) THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THIS MATTER AT VERY HIGH LEVELS AND HAS BEEN GLAD TO LEARN THAT BEIL WOULD CONSIDER HIS TRIP AS ONLY AN ORIENTATION VISIT, AS OPPOSED TO A TRIP OF SOMEWHAT LARGER DIMENSIONS AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD SERVE A MUTUALLY USEFUL PURPOSE AT A LATER DATE, AFTER BOTH SIDES HAVE DEVELOPED SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR RELATIONS. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE US BELIEVES THAT AN EARLY HIGH LEVEL VISIT COULD LEAD TO FALSE EXPECTATIONS. FOR THE PRESENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD CONCENTRATE THEIR BILATERAL EFFORTS ON THE NEGOTIATION OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT AND TO MAKING SOME HEADWAY ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES BEFORE WE CONSIDER HIGH LEVEL VISITS. IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY, IN OUR JUDGMENT, TO COMPLETE THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT BEFORE A HIGH LEVEL VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE, BUT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON A CONSULAR AGREEMENT AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS WOULD CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH A HIGH LEVEL VISIT WOULD BE MEANINGFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE FOR BOTH SIDES.

4. WE PLAN TO PASS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ABOVE TO THE GDR EMBASSY HERE ON AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION AND WILL KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD REPORT ANY REACTION BY YOUR GDR CONTACTS. KISSINGER

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